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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/977,145	10/11/2001	Andrew J. Wardrop	10001-31297	2336

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HOWREY LLP
C/O IP DOCKETING DEPARTMENT
2941 FAIRVIEW PARK DR, SUITE 200
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22042-2924

EXAMINER

BULLOCK JR, LEWIS ALEXANDER

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2195

DATE MAILED: 10/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/977,145

Applicant(s)

WARDROP, ANDREW J.

Examiner

Lewis A. Bullock, Jr.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 October 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

RD

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. New corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in this application because of Draftperson's Review. Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsman outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by RODAL (U.S. Patent 5,883,596).

As to claim 1, RODAL teaches a system for coordinating the activities of one or more computers, comprising: a reload register adapted to transmit a reload value (double buffered counter integrated circuit that is pre-loaded with a start number provided from the microprocessor in the time adjustment signal and that is readjusted) (col. 5, lines 13-26); a mission time (time count) adapted to generate timer count values and to selectively generate an interrupt signal (pulse) based upon the reload value

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transmitted from the reload register (sending the pulse when the count has reached a maximum count) (col. 5, lines 13-26); a first timer capture register adapted to capture a first timer count value when a first PPS signal is received (time adjustment signal / GPS IF signal / GPS replica signal) (col. 5, lines 3-12); and software adapted to generate the reload value based upon the first timer count value (generate time adjustment signal thereby start number based on adjustment signal) (col. 5, lines 6-45).

As to claim 4, RODAL teaches a method for coordinating the activities of one or more computers, comprising: capturing a timer count value with a timer capture register when a PPS signal is received (time adjustment signal / GPS IF signal / GPS replica signal) (col. 5, lines 3-12); generating a reload value based upon the captured timer count value (generate time adjustment signal thereby a start number based on adjustment signal) (col. 5, lines 6-45); and generating an interrupt signal (pulse) based upon the reload value (sending the pulse when the count has reached a maximum count) (col. 5, lines 13-26).

As to claim 5, RODAL teaches a method for coordinating the activities of one or more computers, comprising: capturing a first timer count value with a first timer capture register when a first PPS signal is received (receive time adjustment signal / GPS IF signal / GPS replica signal) (col. 5, lines 3-12); capturing a second timer count value with a second timer capture register when a second PPS signal is received (receive time adjustment signal / GPS IF signal / GPS replica signal) (col. 5, lines 3-12);

generating a consensus timer count value based upon the first captured timer count value and the second captured timer count value (via a GPS derived time signal that can more closely match the measured time difference between GPS IF signal and the GPS replica signal) (col. 5, lines 36-45); generating a reload value based upon the consensus timer count value (generate time adjustment signal thereby start number based on adjustment signal) (col. 5, lines 6-45); and generating an interrupt signal (pulse) based upon the reload value (sending the pulse when the count has reached a maximum count) (col. 5, lines 13-26).

As to claim 6, RODAL teaches a method for coordinating the activities of one or more computers, comprising: generating a local PPS signal with a local PPS signal generator (time adjustment signal / GPS IF signal / GPS replica signal) (col. 5, lines 3-12); capturing a timer count value with a timer capture register when the local PPS signal is received (via receiving the signal) (col. 5, lines 3-12); generating a reload value based upon the captured timer count value (generate time adjustment signal thereby a start number based on adjustment signal) (col. 5, lines 6-45); and generating an interrupt signal (pulse) based upon the reload value (sending the pulse when the count has reached a maximum count) (col. 5, lines 13-26).

As to claim 2, RODAL teaches a second timer capture register adapted to capture a second timer count value when a second PPS signal is received (receive time adjustment signal / GPS IF signal / GPS replica signal) (col. 5, lines 3-12) and wherein

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the software is adapted to generate a consensus PPS value based upon the first timer count value and the second timer count value (via a GPS derived time signal that can more closely match the measured time difference between GPS IF signal and the GPS replica signal) (col. 5, lines 36-45) and to generate the reload value based upon the consensus PPS value (generate time adjustment signal thereby start number based on adjustment signal) (col. 5, lines 6-45).

As to claim 3, RODAL teaches the first PPS signal is generated by a local PPS signal generator (time clock; timer) (see fig. 1).

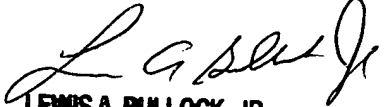
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lewis A. Bullock, Jr. whose telephone number is (571) 272-3759. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Meng An can be reached on (571) 272-3756. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

October 3, 2005


LEWIS A. BULLOCK, JR.
PRIMARY EXAMINER